

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial the box in the OTHER ART portion of the Form-1449 submitted on December 17, 2007 citing "Japanese Office Action, issued in Japanese Patent Application No. 2007-096003, dated on October 23, 2007," and return a copy thereof with the next official communication, to show consideration of the search report.

The Examiner objected to the title of the Specification because it is not descriptive. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment made to the title overcomes this objection.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takeuchi (US 2005/0275732). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that Takeuchi was filed in the U.S. on June 14, 2005. On the other hand, the present application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2005/008036, filed on April 27, 2005, which in turn claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-130638 filed on **April 27, 2004**. Applicants are submitting the certified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-130638 for the Examiner's review, to perfect the claim to priority back to April 27, 2004. In view of that priority date, Takeuchi is not an appropriate prior reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) (see, M.P.E.P. § 706.02(f)(1) and § 2136.03).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4.

Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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